

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network, the method comprising the steps of:
- connecting a device, from which the connection originates, to a local computer network;
 - connecting the local computer network via a router device to a communications network;
 - connecting the communications network via a plurality of conversion devices to the IP-oriented network;
 - selecting one of the conversion devices, via a selection unit implemented in the router device, using information transferred by the device; and
 - setting up a communications link to the select conversion device via the communications network.
- [c2] 2. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected conversion device is a default conversion device, a communications link being set up via the default conversion device in cases where no information to the contrary is received in the selection unit.
- [c3] 3. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:
- initializing a connection setup by a first application running on the device; and
 - transferring the information originating from a second application running on any given device to the router device.
- [c4] 4. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 3, wherein the information is transferred via a separate connection via the local computer network.
- [c5] 5. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:
- transmitting automatically, via the selection unit, a request message to the device which is transmitting the information in cases where no information is received in the selection unit.

[c6] 6. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 2, wherein the default conversion device is configured by the selection unit as a function of time of day.

[c7] 7. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:
automatically clearing down an existing communications connection between the device and a different conversion device at an end of a definable time period in cases where a new communications connection is set up between the device and a conversion device.

[c8] 8. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the existing communications connection is not cleared down in cases where a different device connected to the local computer network continues to access this communications connection.

[c9] 9. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:
designing the selection unit according to a Domain Name Service proxy, wherein a Domain Name Service enquiry transferred from the device to the selection unit is checked to ascertain whether an Internet name corresponding to the Domain Name Service enquiry and identifying a conversion device is stored in the selection unit; and
forwarding the Domain Name Service enquiry, if the internet name is stored in the selection unit, via the communications network to the conversion device identified by the Internet name.

[c10] 10. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 2, wherein the transferred information is an IP address and, when an IP address specifically set up in the selection unit and identifying a conversion device is transferred, the corresponding conversion device is re-configured as the default conversion device.

[c11] 11. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising the step of:

routing IP addresses subsequently transferred from a device to the router device via the currently set up default conversion device until a new IP address specifically set up in the selection unit is transferred to the router device.

- [c12] 12. A router device for setting up a communications connection via an IP-oriented network, originating from a device connected to a local computer network, the local computer network being connected via the router device to a communications network which, in turn, is connected via a plurality of conversion devices to the IP-oriented network, the router device comprising:
- a selection unit for selecting one of the conversion devices with reference to information transferred by any given device; and
 - a control unit for subsequent set-up of a communications connection via the communications network to the selected conversion device.
- [c13] 13. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is a server, a separate socket connection being provided between the device and the selection unit for transferring the information.
- [c14] 14. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is designed according a Domain Name Service proxy.
- [c15] 15. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is an IP address filter.